

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are currently pending. Applicant has amended claims 1, 4, 12, 13, and 18.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for his consideration during the telephone conference on March 15, 2006. During the telephone conference, the Examiner and applicant's representative discussed certain rejection items in the January 17, 2006 Office Action.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Examiner stated that the "drawings merely show how the objects would look if one knew how to make a computer generate and manipulate them." (Office Action, January 17, 2006, p.3.) Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. To satisfy the written description requirement, "an applicant may show that an invention is complete by disclosure of sufficiently detailed, relevant identifying characteristics which provides evidence that applicant was in possession of the claimed invention." M.P.E.P. § 2163.3(a) (emphasis added). Here, applicant has provided sufficient disclosure concerning the characteristics of the claimed elements for displaying and manipulating these elements (e.g., the multiple selection highlight object and highlight objects) in Figures 1-7 and the corresponding descriptions. Moreover, there is a strong presumption that original claims (and the rejected claims are original) satisfy the written description requirement. M.P.E.P. § 2163(I)(A) Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that the specification sufficiently conveys to one skilled in the art that applicant had possession of the invention when the application was filed.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and submits that to satisfy the enablement requirement, "detailed procedures for making and using the invention may not be necessary if the description of the invention

itself is sufficient to permit those skilled in the art to make and use the invention." M.P.E.P § 2164. Applicant respectfully submits that the specification as filed is sufficient to permit one skilled in the art to practice the claimed invention. For example, claim 1 includes receiving information for selection of objects in a document and displaying highlight objects. One skilled in the art clearly knows how to receive object selection information and display highlight objects in response as indicated in the cited references – Omura and Cohen. A multiple selection highlight object is an object that at least partially bounds the highlight objects and includes features of object manipulation. As a consequence, one skilled in the art also knows how to display such an object based on applicant's disclosure. The Examiner specifically mentioned that "[a]pplicants do not disclose the flip command, how to detect it, and how it operates to flip the highlighted object." As stated in the January 17, 2006 Office Action, "Micrografx teaches both 'flip horizontal' and 'flip vertical' functions." (Office Action, January 17, 2006, p.17.) As a result, one skilled in the art would appreciate what is intended by the flip command and its detection and operation. Accordingly, applicant's disclosure meets the enablement requirement because one skilled in the art can practice the invention based on the specification as filed.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 5, 11, 12-17, 19, and 20-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Omura, claims 4, 6, 9, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Omura in view of Cohen, and claims 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Omura in view of Cohen and further in view of Micrografx. Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 12, and 19 and respectfully submits that the amended claims are allowable over the cited references.

Applicant's technique aims to reduce the number of steps required to manipulate multiple objects displayed on a user interface. According to applicant's technique, when a user selects multiple objects (e.g., objects 1 and 2), highlight objects corresponding to the objects 1 and 2 are displayed as, for example, objects with the same shape but different border outlines as objects 1 and 2. In addition to the highlight objects, a multiple selection highlight object that at least partially bounds the highlight objects is displayed and includes

features of object manipulation (e.g., handles, axis pins, and other features). As such, when the user manipulates the multiple selection highlight object using the features of object manipulation, the objects 1 and 2 can be manipulated at the same time without grouping or ungrouping the objects 1 and 2.

Omura discloses a technique for selecting and manipulating objects in AUTO CAD 11. According to Omura's technique, objects on a user interface can be selected by surrounding the objects with a rectangle called a "crossing window." (Omura, p. 49.). After the selection, the objects are displayed with dotted lines (i.e., "ghosting") and additional operation can be performed on the selected objects via various menu items (e.g., the "move" command).

Omura does not teach or suggest "displaying a multiple selection highlight object ... [that] at least partially bounds the highlight objects to provide visual feedback of the multiple selection of the two or more objects after the selection information is received and includes features of object manipulation," as recited in pending claims 1-11. Instead, Omura discloses a crossing window for selecting multiple objects with a pointing device. Assuming, *arguendo*, that the crossing window corresponds to the multiple selection highlight object of claim 1, Omura neither teaches nor suggests that the crossing window can include features of object manipulation used to manipulate the selected objects. The crossing window is displayed as a simple rectangle to show objects surrounded by the rectangle. Further, the crossing window disappears after the selection is completed, and thus is not displayed after the selection information is received when the selection is completed. As a result, Omura does not teach displaying the multiple selection highlight object that includes features of object manipulation after the selection information is received, nor provides any suggestion for such a modification. Moreover, the claims recite a novel combination of elements that is neither taught nor suggested by the cited references.

Claims 12-18 recite "creating a multiple selection highlight object that corresponds to the created highlight objects, wherein the multiple selection highlight object at least partially bounds the highlight objects to provide visual feedback of the multiple selection of the two or more objects after the selection information is received and includes features of object manipulation," that is neither taught nor suggested by Omura.

Claims 19-24 recite "logic for creating a multiple selection highlight object that at least partially bounds the first highlight object and the second highlight object to provide visual feedback of the multiple selection of the first object and the second object after the first and second highlight objects are created, the multiple selection highlight object including features of object manipulation," that is neither taught nor suggested by Omura.

Based upon these amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its early allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned representative at (206) 359-6038.

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Respectfully submitted,

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